

Impact of animal health research on poverty reduction: ILRI outcome story 2004

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DFID commissioned ILRI to identify the research priorities in animal health that would have greatest impact on poverty reduction. Using qualitative and quantitative techniques, the study identified and ranked the animal diseases with greatest impact on the livelihoods of the poor in Africa, South Asia and South East Asia, and weighted them by numbers of poor in different production systems. Research opportunities for ranked diseases were identified, ascertaining likelihood of success, time frame and cost. The synthesis produced a basket of options classified by three livestock-mediated pathways out of poverty (securing assets, improving productivity and promoting market opportunities), and by three levels of research (delivery of available products, improving existing ones and developing new ones).

This research has played a central role in designing ILRI's new strategy, in which the "pathways" became central to ILRI's portfolio. This element was also adopted by other international agencies, including the World Bank and FAO. Furthermore, the results stimulated the Wellcome Trust to launch a new £25 million investment programme on animal health research to improve livelihoods in the developing world, as highlighted by the DFID Animal Health Programme Annual report, 2002-2003.

The basket of "developed" vaccine technologies contained many urgently-needed by the poor, but of little commercial interest to pharmaceutical industries. The DFID-commissioned study was influential in leading to the establishment of the Global Alliance on Livestock Vaccines (GALV), a public-private partnership to get such vaccines used by poor farmers.

References:

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